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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, some of us are able to give much, yet we give little. Some of us would give more, but we have little. Inspire us today to give You our best. Help us to focus on serving You and bringing honor to Your Name.

Guide our lawmakers in their challenging work. Open their minds and hearts to be ready to do Your bidding. Use them as instruments of Your purposes, shining Your light through them to dispel the shadows in our world. Help them to live to please You, demonstrating conclusively with actions that they follow You. Empower them to live in a manner that will glorify You. Give them the wisdom to encourage and help each other in the important work of guarding our freedom.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, February 28, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,

President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 60 minutes. The first 30 will be controlled by the majority, and the remaining 30 minutes will be under the control of the Republicans.

Following this period of morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 4, the 9/11 legislation. This is a very important piece of legislation. That is why it has a low number. It is one of the 10 that I thought we should complete as soon as possible. I am happy we are there. I thank the Republican leader for his cooperation in allowing consent to be granted for us to switch the cloture vote from the Commerce Committee-reported legislation to S. 4, which is, of course, the measure reported by the Homeland Security Committee. I hope Members will be here early to offer amendments to the legislation.

Once I have laid down the substitute amendment, which will encompass provisions from several committees—Homeland Security, Banking, and Commerce—we will be ready for the amendment process. Members should expect rollcall votes throughout the day. We could go into late evening sessions. We really need to complete this bill. As I told Members yesterday, except for Friday late in the day, because of Sen-

ator LIEBERMAN, our manager of the bill—he starts his Sabbath at sundown on Friday—we are going to move this bill. We could very likely have Friday afternoon votes. So everyone who has airplane reservations should cover themselves because we may have to be here. If progress is not sufficient to finish this bill next week, we will have to start working longer hours. I hope we can get things available Monday so that we have more than one vote Monday night. We really need to start legislating. We have had, in my mind, too much time off.

I see the distinguished Senator from Colorado. We have the first time, but we have no one here at this stage; they are on their way. If he would like to speak now, we will use part of his time now.

Mr. ALLARD. I thank the majority leader for that opportunity. I have a bill I would like to introduce briefly this morning and talk about it for a few minutes. If somebody shows up from his side, I will yield.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. Under the previous order, the first 30 minutes will be controlled by the majority leader or his designee.

The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. ALLARD pertaining to the introduction of S. 699 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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